

Good Question Series: Part 3 – Is the Bible Reliable?

2 Peter 1:19-21

“The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself!” – Charles Spurgeon

Sermon Summary

The main goal for this sermon is to help people come to a better understanding of the authentic reliability of the Bible as the Word of God. The Bible is the most unique book in the world and it is the only inspired text given to mankind by God. We will look at four testimonies that qualify it as reliable and true which will help each Christian become certain of its credibility and infallibility.

Key Passage: 2 Peter 1:19-21 – And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Four Testimonies of Truth

Testimony #1 – The Testimony of Jesus Christ

- **Key Facts About Jesus**
- **Fact #1** – God Exists & God Cannot Lie – (**Titus 1:2 & Hebrews 6:18**)
- **Fact #2** – Jesus is One With God => Jesus Cannot Lie – (**John 10:30**)
- **Conclusion** - The Bible is Infallible. – (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **Key Facts About His Testimony**
- **Fact #1** – Jesus calls the OT the commands of God – (**Mark 7:8-9**)
- **Fact #2** – Jesus Promises NT will be Inspired by God – (**John 14:25-26, 16:12-13**)
 - Jesus promised the apostles would be inspired to write his teachings down.

Testimony #2 – The Testimony of Unity

- **Key Facts About this Testimony**
- **Fact #1** – The Bible is a collection of 66 Books
- **Fact #2** – The Bible was written over a 1500 year time span by 40 Different Writers
- **Fact #3** – The Bible was written on 3 Continents & in 3 Different Languages.
- **Fact #4** – Central Theme of the Bible = Redemption of Mankind
- **Hebrews 4:12** – For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Testimony #3 – The Testimony of Prophecy

- **Key Facts About this Testimony**
- **Fact #1** – There are 456 OT prophecies about the Messiah
- **Fact #2** – Probability of 17 prophecies about the Messiah being fulfilled in one man is **1 chance in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion**

Event	Prophecy	Fulfillment
Place of Jesus' birth (<i>Bethlehem</i>)	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:1-7
His forerunner foretold (<i>John the Baptist</i>)	Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5	Matthew 3:1-3; 11:11-14
His betrayal by Judas	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, Luke 22:47-48
He died with transgressors	Isaiah 53:9, 12	Luke 23:33
Not a bone to be broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:31-37
Buried by a rich man	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
His Resurrection foretold	Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28:1-6 ¹

2 Peter 1:20-21 – Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Testimony #4 – The Testimony of Archaeology

- **Key Facts About this Testimony**
- **Fact #1** – Archaeology Does Not Contradict the Bible
- **Examples of Archeological Proof**
 - The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable.
 - The Hittites were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey.
 - It was once claimed there was no Assyrian king named Sargon as recorded in Isaiah 20:1, because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's palace was discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq. The very event mentioned in Isaiah 20, his capture of Ashdod, was recorded on the palace walls.
 - Another king who was in doubt was Belshazzar, king of Babylon, named in Daniel 5. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 – And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

Questions to Consider

1. Why do you believe that the Bible is reliable? Explain.

¹ This chart was taken from Denver Sizemore's book: Thirteen Lessons in Christian Doctrine.

2. How would you relate the reliability and authenticity of the Bible to people seeking answers on this subject? Explain.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Challenge

This week take the time and begin reading through the book of Acts in order to learn more about the history of the first Christians and why they believed the Bible was reliable!



CICERO CHRISTIAN CHURCH where God's
love flows
like a river

1715 Stringtown Pike • Cicero, IN 46034 • 317.984.4653 • cicerochristianchurch.org